


TITAN STEEL & WIRE CO. LTD.

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February 18, 2000

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
 Surface Transportation Board
 Office of the Secretary
 Case Control Unit
 Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582
 1925 K Street, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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 Office of the Secretary
 FEB 29 2000
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 Public Record

Dear Sir:

We understand the Surface Transportation Board will soon be discussing the issues regarding the proposed merger between CN and BNSF (Ex Parte 582 8 March).

Titan Steel is a wire manufacturer that ships our products throughout USA and Canada, and much of our business is moved by rail. We therefore have a vested interest in improving the service south of our border, and this link up could be a logical way to achieve this aim.

We therefore encourage your Board to focus on the benefits this CN-BNSF combination should bring and not on the opposition likely to come from other carriers who want to protect their "turf".

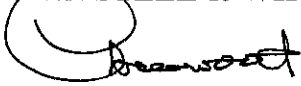
Having seen and experienced the dramatic turn around that CN have achieved over the past few years in improved service and lower costs, we feel this proposed merger could be good for shippers throughout N. America.

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We know the STB has a mandate to protect the public interest in any railroad transactions, and trust you will fairly evaluate the CN-BNSF combination according to those principles, and not allow your evaluation to be influenced by other railroad companies who would like to use the STB as a protectionist vehicle. We feel confident that your Board will give this proposal a fair hearing, and judge the matter on its own merit.

Yours truly,

TITAN STEEL & WIRE CO. LTD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greenwood", written over a circular stamp or mark.

Trevor Greenwood
Senior Vice President,
General Manager Sales

/ht